



Guide to the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program

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This guide was developed by the Kansas Office of Primary Care and Rural Health for primary care and rural health clinics, critical access hospitals and other local providers to explore the National Health Service Corps.



What is the National Health Service Corps?

National Health Service Corps (NHSC) programs provide scholarships and student loan repayment for primary care providers in the medical, dental, and behavioral health fields who agree to practice in areas of country that have health professional shortages (HPSAs).

The NHSC is administered by the Bureau of Health Workforce in the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Health Department and Health and Human Services.

What is the NHSC Scholarship Program?

The purpose of the NHSC's Scholarship Program is to provide scholarships to students pursuing primary care health professions training in return for a commitment to provide primary health services in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

The scholarship pays tuition, fees, other educational costs, and provides a living stipend in return for a commitment to work at least 2 years at an NHSC/approved site in a medically underserved community.

For each year of financial support (up to four years), the student agrees to serve on year (minimum two years) at an NHSC-approved site in a high-need urban, rural, or frontier community.

What does the scholarship include?

The scholarship includes tax-free payment of tuition, required fees, other reasonable educational costs, and a monthly living stipend (taxable).

When in service, scholars earn a market-rate salary, paid by the employing facility. Scholarship payments other than the living stipend are federal income tax-free.

Who is eligible?

You can apply to the Scholarship Program if you are committed to primary care and accepted to or enrolled in an accredited U.S. school in one of the following primary care disciplines:

- Physicians (MD or DO)
- Dentists
- Nurse Practitioners (post-graduate degree with clinical practice focus)
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Physician Assistants

You must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national, and a full-time student at an accredited school.

Where can I serve?

NHSC Scholars must practice at an NHSC-approved site in a HPSA with a minimum score that is determined annually. NHSC sites are located in 50 states, DC, and territories and may be one of the following:

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- FQHC Look-alike
- Rural Health Clinic
- Hospital-affiliated Primary Care Outpatient Clinic
- Indian Health Service, Tribal Clinic, and Urban Indian Health Clinic (ITU)
- State or Federal Correctional Facility
- Private Practice (Solo/Group)
- Other Health Facilities:
 - o Community Mental Health Facility
 - o Community Outpatient Facility
 - o Critical Access Hospital
 - o Free Clinic
 - o Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Health Service Corps
 - o Mobile Unit
 - o School-based Health Program
 - o State and County Department of Health Clinic

What is the Application Process?

To be notified when the Scholarship Program application cycle opens in spring 2017, sign up to get an e-mail here:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHSHRSA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USHSHRSA_69.

To apply for the Scholarship Program, applicants are to complete the online application, which consists of the following sections:

- Eligibility Screening
- General Information
- Degree Information
- Background Information
- Letters of Recommendation
- Self-Certification

Applicants must also provide the following required supporting documentation:

- Proof of Citizenship or U.S. National Status
- Authorization to Release Information Form
- Acceptance Report/Verification of Good Standing
- Resume/CV
- Essays
- Transcript
- Current Tuition and Fee Schedule

For more detailed information about the application process, go to page 38 of the Scholarship Program Application and Program Guidance: <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/downloads/spapplicationguide.pdf>.

When does service begin?

Services begins upon graduation (and completion of primary care residency training for doctors and dentists). The NHSC helps scholars find a practice site that's right for them.

How can I prepare for the application?

- Read the Application and Program Guidance:
<https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/downloads/spapplicationguide.pdf>
- Check your eligibility
- Understand the service commitment
- Review types of NHSC sites
- Gather supporting documents
- Participate in technical assistance webinars/calls
- Submit application by deadline

For additional assistance, practice sites/employers can contact Kansas Office of Rural Health and Primary Care at ruralhealth@ks.gov or primarycare@ks.gov.

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